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# UPDATE:Abu Dhabi Reshuffles Govt; Sheik Hazza On Executive Council

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Sunday, Dec 12, 2010

(Adds details, background.)

DUBAI (Zawya Dow Jones)--Abu Dhabi's ruler Sunday issued two decrees reshuffling the oil-rich emirate's local government and giving a role for the first time on the Executive Council to Sheik Hazza bin Zayed Al Nahyan, a national security adviser and younger brother of Abu Dhabi crown prince Sheik Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan.

Sheik Mohammed, who is chairman of the Executive Council, was reappointed to that role while Sheik Hazza was named as his deputy, according to a statement carried by United Arab Emirates state news agency WAM. The two decrees are effective immediately, WAM said.

Of the Executive Council's current members, Mohammed Al Bowardi retains his position as secretary general, while Khaldoon Al Mubarak also remains chairman of the Executive Affairs Authority.

As part of the government reshuffle, council member Hamad Al Hurr Al Suwaidi, formerly undersecretary of the department of finance, becomes the department's chairman, replacing Sheik Mohammed bin Khalifa Al Nahyan, who remains a member of the council.

Abu Dhabi's Executive Council, long renamed from 'council of ministers,' is the highest governing body in the emirate, the largest of the United Arab Emirates and home to most of the country's crude oil reserves. The council's membership is made up of chairmen of local government departments, some local authorities and other members appointed by the emirate's ruler, Sheik Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, who is also president of the U.A.E.

Sunday's decree appoints Ahmed Mubarak Al Mazrouei deputy secretary general of the Executive Council and chairman of state utility Abu Dhabi Water and Electricity Authority, or Adwea, replacing Sheik Diab bin Zayed Al Nahyan. The decree doesn't say if Al Mazrouei retains his role as chairman of the emirate's Health Authority.

Majid Ali Al Mansouri was appointed chairman of the department of municipal affairs, or DMA, according to the decree. He replaces Rashid Mubarak Al Hajeri. It is also unclear if Al Mansouri retains his role as secretary general of the emirate's Environment Agency after his appointment as head of the DMA.

Sheik Saeed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Sheik Tahnoon bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Sheik Diab bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Sheik Sultan bin Khalifa Al Nahyan and Sheik Ahmad bin Saif Al Nayhan--all listed as members of the Executive Council on its website--are not named in the new decree as members.

Abu Dhabi in 2005 began restructuring its government, expanding the authority of the General Secretariat of the Executive Council. Headed by Al Bowardi, the general secretariat studies, proposes and executes policy decisions approved by the Executive Council, and monitors the performance of government departments and projects.

The emirate is carrying out an estimated \$100 billion economic development plan to build up infrastructure and industries, with the aim of boosting non-oil revenue to diversify its economy.

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